

Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department

George Smith, Fire Chief
606 Douglas Highway
Lamoine, ME 04605

Emergency: 9-1-1
Station: (207) 667-2623



Fire Department Budget – 2019/2020

We are pleased to submit a budget proposal for operation of the Lamoine Volunteer Fire Department for the upcoming fiscal year 19/20. The overall fire department budget is proposed to increase by \$5,180, or 8.14% from the current year. But, when you look back to the 2017/18 budget, the increase is just \$1,730, or 2.6%.

Chief's Salary – No change is proposed to the current budget.

Personnel Reimbursements – This line is proposed to increase by \$500.00. We've enjoyed a bit of a surge in membership, and this payment is to help members absorb some of the expense of volunteering for the fire department. Payments are based on the estimated level of participation reflected in the volunteer's rank. The payments for the 18/19 budget are going out this week, and are a bit higher than budgeted thanks to more volunteers!

Electricity – No change is proposed to the current budget.

Water – The bill from Cold Spring Water Company increased \$30.00 in the current fiscal year. The proposed increase is to reflect that. The water company does not anticipate an increase in the next fiscal year.

Telephone – The fire department has a land line and a cell phone in one of the trucks. No change is proposed from the current budget.

Heating Oil – Two factors go into the calculation – the price of oil and the amount used. The town pre-purchases oil in a consortium of communities in order to get the best price. We generally purchase 1,500 gallons and if the winter is brutally cold, we'll end up purchasing more. The proposed budget is up 10% from the current year in fear that either oil prices will go up or temperatures will go down. It's basically an educated guess.

Truck Maintenance – As you can see, the actual for the previous budget year and the current fiscal year has exceeded the \$5,000 budget for both years. The trucks are inspected annually and whatever maintenance is needed is done at the time of inspection. The addition of the 1997 ladder to the fleet has caused the department to estimate higher maintenance costs simply because of the age and complexity of the truck. This makes up a big chunk of the budget increase.

Pump Maintenance – This is also proposed to increase because of the addition of the ladder truck which has the largest pump of the fleet now (it puts out a lot of water at the tip of the ladder). The tanker that was sold had a very small pump. The \$500 increase should handle normal pump maintenance.

Rescue Boat Maintenance – No change is proposed from the current budget.

Radio Maintenance – A \$100 increase is proposed. The department has overspent the budget already for this year on this line, mainly due to installation of the radio in the new

truck and for installation of a new cell phone in truck #405. The pagers are also a constant source of radio maintenance as they age and get used hard.

Equipment Maintenance – No change is proposed from the current budget. This line is used to routine maintenance of things like the chainsaws, ice auger, cutting tools, portable pumps and the like.

Lights and Batteries – The department has numerous items such as PASS alarms, high intensity lights and AED's that require batteries – lots of batteries. Some of the lights are very old and need to be replaced in the next fiscal year, thus the proposed \$150 increase.

Station Supplies – No increase is proposed.

Hand Tools – No change to the current budget is proposed.

First Aid – No change to the current budget is proposed

Inoculation Program – This provides Hepatitis and flu shots to firefighters. A \$100 reduction is proposed.

Respiratory Fit Testing – This is required of all interior firefighters to wear an air pack. No change is proposed to the current budget.

Station Maintenance – One of the big projects the fire department hopes to accomplish in the 19/20 fiscal year is repainting the floor. That's the impetus for the \$1,500 increase.

Hydrant Maintenance – No change is proposed to the current budget.

Gas & Diesel – No change is proposed to the current budget. Like heating fuel, it's an educated guess on how much fuel will be used (it depends on the number and type of calls) and the price of fuel.

Extinguishers – No change is proposed from the current budget

Foam – We will likely have to purchase some foam in the 19/20 fiscal year. A \$100 increase is proposed.

Air Pack Maintenance – By state and federal regulation, all the air packs need to be flow tested annually. The department anticipates purchasing a couple more packs to place on the ladder truck thus increasing the testing cost. It's anticipated that the City of Ellsworth will be able to sell us several airpacks that are compatible with the recently purchased packs and we'll be able to retire some very old ones that cost a fair amount to repair.

Fire Prevention – This line purchases goodies (plastic fire helmets) for school based fire prevention sessions. No change is proposed.

Dues & Memberships – The department belongs to both the Maine State Federation of Firefighters and the Hancock County Firefighters' Association. The chief belongs to the Maine Fire Chief's Association. No change is proposed.

Training – No change is proposed to this budget. We're putting one firefighter through the county training academy this year (\$450/each). Members regularly attend other training courses which cost some money.

Other – No change is proposed to the current \$100/budge.

Pager – It is proposed to purchase one new pager in the 19/20 Fiscal Year, reducing this line by \$500.00

Attack Hose – No change is proposed in this line – this will purchase about 200-feet of new hose.

Supply Hose – Testing has taken a couple sections of hose out of service in recent years. The proposed \$900 increase will buy an additional 100-feet of 4" hose.

Turnout Gear – The budget is for the approximate cost of one full set of turnout gear, a reduction of \$2,500 for two sets in the current year.

Air Pack Replacement – As noted in the maintenance section, the department hopes to buy some airpacks from the Ellsworth Fire Department. Some of that purchase will come in the current fiscal year and a reduction is proposed for the 19/20 year.

Equipment Purchases – No major purchases are proposed in the town budget for the fiscal year.

Ladder/Truck/Hose Testing – The department is mandated to test all three items annually. With the arrival of a ladder truck, the test will have to be done by a professional agency. The department engages a company to test hose as well, and truck testing, which had been done in-house at great effort is now being done by the company from which most of the trucks have been purchased. This is the reason for the sizable increase. This and the truck maintenance line account for virtually all of the proposed budget increase.

Respectfully submitted,

George "Skip" Smith, Fire Chief